

Letter from Eliza Symonds Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, with transcript

Copy of letter from Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell to her son, Alexander Graham Bell
December 12th, 75 P. O. Box 518 Brantford, Ont., Can. Home, December 12th, 75 My
dear Aleck:

A few hours after your Father had posted his letter to Mabel, we received her reply to my letter. Hers was a very beautiful note, and we are all delighted with it, including the family in Town. We feel sure we shall love her very much. You must however prepare her for our being very plain, quiet folks in the country. I wish it would do to invite her to accompany you to see us at Christmas, but it would not be right for her to take such a long journey alone with you. I am surprised at your thinking my note to her was constrained! What an unreasoning fellow you are to suppose that every one should take such long jumps as yourself, a little person like me must begin at the beginning. Mabel and I will soon be fully acquainted and familiar. We are delighted to know that you are so well and so happy. You have got my last Sunday's letter I suppose, partly written by Papa. We sent it to post in rather an irregular way, but I hope it is all right. Mabel's photograph will be all the more welcome being from her own drawing. What is the colour of her hair and eyes? Does she wear rings, and if so what is the size of what will be her wedding finger? I have some beautiful white stones that came from the Island of Ceylon which I would like to get set for her. They are called Moon-stones, and are changeable according to the light in which they fall. Bring with you some certain ring that fits her. Have you still got the furniture you had in Newton Street? If you live at an apartment Hotel, as Mrs. Hubbard proposes, would you receive private pupils there? I rather like the idea myself as the arrangement would leave you perfectly free in regard to absenting yourselves, and perhaps it would be less expensive than a house. Papa thinks 400 for a couple of unfurnished rooms would be very high, but most 2 likely a suite of rooms would be three. In such a case could you

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get necessary attendance or must you keep a servant of your own? We will talk this over when we meet. I am glad that dear Mabel is anxious that your Music should not be given up entirely. If the fever in which she lost her hearing, did not utterly destroy the nerve, perhaps she might hear the piano by resting a piece of solid stick on the sounding board and holding it there with her teeth. By such means the noise would reach me, and many persons otherwise quite deaf, have been made sensible of musical sounds. I assure you I feel quite complimented by your selecting a deaf lady for your wife, as it proves you have not been deterred by your Father's experience with me. By the way, apropos of Music, there is I believe a musical emporium near you in Essex Street. I wonder if you could get there any English publication of Music? I want No. 114 of Boozy's Musical Cabinet (published at one shilling) which the master of the music shop here has tried in vain to get either in Brantford, at Hamilton or Toronto, though the number I saw was bought in Hamilton. It contains 45 of Beethoven's Waltzes. Try if you can get hold of it. Charley went back to Toronto yesterday, and tomorrow and Tuesday his Father reads there. Carrie is very well and about again. The weather has not admitted of my going again to see her, but her husband has been here. Baby's name had not been decided upon when we heard last. By the way did I tell you of the report that has been going about for the last two or three weeks? It is said and believed that your Aunt Ellen has just had a baby!!! I was asked a fortnight ago if it was really true, and your Papa was asked the same thing two days since. She is of course quite tickled about it. You must feel very much gratified, as we all do, in your being so acceptable to Mabel's friends and relations, especially the grandparents. I suppose very few married couples live to celebrate their golden wedding. When you come home do not forget to bring Charley's woolen 3 shirt, that you ran off with last Christmas, also remember old trousers or anything you cannot wear yourself, for William. Give our united and very best love to Mabel, and say we are impatient to become personally acquainted with her. Ask her also to learn the double handed finger alphabet for me. She need not fear yielding to the temptation of using it too frequently, for few besides ourselves understand it. She should for her own safety, know either one or the other. I can imagine circumstances where it might be absolutely necessary to convey information

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to her, in the absence of light, and which could be easily done by touch alone, with the two handed alphabet. Papa and your cousins all unite in dear love to yourself, and in kind regards to Mr and Mrs. Hubbard and Mrs. Saunders. I am,

Ever your affectionate Mother, E. G. Bell